

# **THE BRING THEM HOME ALIVE ACT <sup>1</sup>**

and

## **THE PERSIAN GULF WAR POW/MIA ACCOUNTABILITY ACT <sup>2</sup>**

**BACKGROUND:** In 2000, Congress passed the *Bring Them Home Alive Act*, which the President signed into law on November 9, 2000. It provides refugee status to foreign nationals of specified countries who assist in returning to U.S. control a live American POW or MIA from the Vietnam or Korean Wars.

**VIETNAM WAR:** The Act grants refugee status to any foreign national (and his or her immediate family) of Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, China, or the Former Soviet Union, who personally assists in returning a live American POW or MIA from the Vietnam War to U.S. control.

**KOREAN WAR:** The Act also grants refugee status to any foreign national (and his or her immediate family) of North Korea, China, or the Former Soviet Union, who personally assists in returning a live American POW or MIA from the Korean War to U.S. control.

The Act promotes cooperation by citizens of certain countries, who might know about, and be able to help, American servicemen in captivity. It also addresses the fear of retaliation that foreign nationals in some countries might have, by granting asylum in the United States. In promoting this program, the U.S. Government also raises awareness of American efforts to find our missing service personnel.

**PERSIAN GULF WAR:** In 2002, Congress passed, and the President signed into law, the *Persian Gulf War POW/MIA Accountability Act*. It amended the Bring Them Home Alive Act to include the Persian Gulf War. This act grants refugee status to any foreign national (and his or her immediate family) of Iraq or a nation of the Greater Middle East Region, who personally assists in returning to U.S. control a live American POW or MIA from the Persian Gulf War.

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1. Public Law 106-484  
2. Public Law 107-258